

Message Text

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10

ORIGIN STR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 L-03 PRS-01 TAR-02

AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03

TRSE-00 SWF-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /087 R

DRAFTED BY STR:E.LAPP:SMM
APPROVED BY STR:S.LANDE
STATE/EB/OT/GCP:D.DUNFORD
STATE/ARA/ECP:L.MARKUS
COMMERCE/IEPR/OTP:D.SCHLECHTY

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R 052016Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS STATE 118243

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: BASIS FOR US DUTY ON RUM IMPORTS

REF: GEORGETOWN 0742

1. DURING RECENT TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA AMBASSADOR EBERLE MADE TWO STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO RUM. FIRST, THE UNITED STATES IS SYMPATHETIC TO CARIBBEAN REQUESTS THAT WE LOWER OUR DUTY. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER RUM AS A SEPARATE ITEM IN THE MTN THOUGH CONSIDERATION WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO PUERTO RICAN INTERESTS. SECONDLY, THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO MAKE ITS PROOF GALLON/WINE GALLON METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF DUTIES AND EXCISE TAXES SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION DURING THE MTN. AS THIS METHOD OF ASSESSMENT WORKS TO THE DETRIMENT OF ALL BOTTLED IMPORTED LIQUOR ENTERING AT LESS THAN 100 PROOF, NO REVISION IS CONTEMPLATED
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OTHER THAN IN MTN CONTEXT.

2. AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY POINT OUT TO OFFICIALS CONCERNED THAT USG IS NOW ANALYZING METHODS WHICH CAN BEST ACCOMMODATE INTERESTS OF BOTH CARIBBEAN AND PUERTO RICAN RUM EXPORTERS AND EXPECTS THE ISSUE TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE MTN. KISSINGER

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NNN

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